

October 9, 1958

Dr Henry S Kaplan
Radiology
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San Francisco 15 Calif.

Dear Henry:

Bob Alway has given us final clearance now for moving February 1. I would be very happy to avail myself of the opportunity to live in the space in the Biophysics Laboratory pending the completion of our quarters in the medical center. We knew from the start that this would be a crisper arrangement, but only lately could muster the necessary energy and forethought to accelerate our move. You are quite right that, for Esther and myself, two months occupancy of a lab would be slim advantage to offset the fuss of moving, but this isn't the whole story -- there are three or four students and fellows for whom the interval would be at least five months, and that is rather a different story. Also the act of moving such a distance is so complex that there is some advantage to having an intermediate station within orbital distance. And I am beginning to realize that there are substantial complexities in fitting Genetics as a department into the medical school, and the next several months are a most crucial interval in its development. In some ways, Art has a simpler problem, despite the larger size of his responsibilities, just because of the self-contained character of his program and the recognized precedents for it. I am sure he will not have to consult so wide a range of colleagues, for example, in organizing a training program (for the purpose of an application to NIH). I don't relish the prospect of spending so much time on these organizational questions, but would rather get them over now, during an interim that will be disorganized anyhow, than have to continue to be bothered after our new labs are set up.

Bob hinted there was hot news brewing for pediatrics but was reluctant to discuss this over the phone. (?)

Art mentioned you might be passing through St. Louis later this month, and this would make a splendid opportunity for us all to get together. If so we can make more detailed plans for Biophysics space, among other matters at that time. I think it might be wise to set January 1 as an informal sort of starting date-- I expect to be on campus for several days before January 25 (if, as hoped, the next Genetics Study Section meeting is to be held out there) and then return to Madison briefly for our final move.

There is one possibility for furniture I hope you might formulate a tentative opinion on, for later discussion. Avram and Art devised to Genetics two bays each from their respective domains in the new center. The furniture and equipment planned for rooms 3-351 and -331 (the pharmacology segment) will suit us very well without too much reworking, but this is not the case for -551 and -571 (biochemistry). The idea of just chucking it away appeals to no one, and it seemed to me that those benches would fit very well indeed, at least as temporary installations in the Biophysics rooms. We could then replan from bare walls in 551 and

571 without too many conscientious reservations to make expedient solutions for problems we may have to live with a good many years. As you can see from the plans, that furniture should fit very well into Biophysics, and we could certainly make do with it during our own temporary occupancy. The main difficulty is that it is mainly chemical benchwork (37" height), whereas the pattern of our own work calls for less by way of plumbing, and 31" benchwork. The one item I can visualize retaining as is would be the bench marked ③ in room 571. Milt Johnson is, of course, the man to consult on the details.

I had made an earlier suggestion that the furniture in these rooms be transposed to another empty suite that Art was to occupy at the other end of Edwards, but so far as I know this has not been done. I don't know whether Art has any other interest in the disposition of that furniture.

If this sort of arrangement does meet with general approval would you let Johnson know about this? He already has some preliminary plans for these rooms, and I would adhere to these (pending his comments) as far as the partitions go; if I can start from bare walls in 551 and 571 there should be ample time to design the furniture during the next several months. (There might be some misunderstanding-- bare walls includes the fume hoods already designed, which would be intolerably expensive to relocate.)

I hope we do get together again soon,

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg